

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Brief Listing of Status of Claims

Claims 1-20 are Currently Amended.

New Claim 21 has been added herein.

Listing of Claims in "Marked-up" Form

1. (Currently Amended) A wood cooking aid comprising ~~characterized in that it comprises a mixture of fatty acids~~ component and a rosin acids component and/or salts thereof wherein said fatty acid component is blended together with said rosin acid component to produce said cooking aid, and wherein said cooking aid comprises about 70 to about 2% fatty acids, and about 20 to about 98% rosin acids in a ratio which is effective in removing the extractives in pulp production.
2. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid of according to claim 1 wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said salts are soaps of said acids and ~~that wherein said cooking aid fatty acid rosin acid mixture contains less than about 15%, preferably less than about 10%, more preferably less than about 5% unsaponifiable material.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid of according to claim 1 wherein ~~characterized in that said cooking aid fatty acid rosin acid mixture comprises about 20 to about 98%, preferably about 35 to about 80%, more preferably about 50 to about 70% rosin acids and about 70 to about 2%, preferably about 55 to about 15%, more preferably about 45 to about 25% fatty acids.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid of according to claim 1 wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said rosin acids comprise tall oil rosin acids selected from the group consisting of, preferably abietic acid, dehydroabietic acid, and/or palustric acid and all combinations thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid ~~of according to~~ claim 1 wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said rosin acids comprise pimaric acid ~~and/or 8, 15-pimaric acid.~~
6. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid ~~of according to~~ claim 1 wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said fatty acids are selected from the group consisting of ~~comprise~~ vegetable based fatty acids, ~~and/or~~ animal based fatty acids, and all combinations thereof ~~such as tallow.~~
7. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid ~~of according to~~ claim 1 wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said fatty acids comprise unsaturated fatty acids.
8. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid ~~of according to~~ claim 1 wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said fatty acids comprise oleic acid, linoleic acid and/or pinolenic acid.
9. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid ~~of according to~~ claim 1 wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said fatty acids comprise branched fatty acids, conjugated fatty acids, synthetic fatty acids and/or cyclic fatty acids.
10. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid ~~of according to~~ claim 1 wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said fatty acids comprise the monomer part produced during dimerization of fatty acids.
11. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid ~~of according to~~ claim 10 wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said monomer part contains branched oleic acids 13 to 20%, branched stearic acids 7 to 20%, oleic acid 15 to 25%, other fatty acids 28 to 58% the rest being unsaponifiable material.
12. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid ~~of according to~~ claim 11 wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the fatty acid distribution of said monomer part is branched oleic acids about

14 to about 16%, branched stearic acid about 13 to about 15%, oleic acid about 19 to about 21%, other fatty acids about 42 to about 44%.

13. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid of according to claim 1 wherein
~~characterized in that~~ said fatty acids and said rosin acids are derived from tall oil.

14. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid of according to claim 1 wherein
~~characterized in that~~ said fatty acids and said rosin acids comprise fractions of distilled tall oil.

15. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid of according to claim 14 wherein
~~characterized in that~~ said fatty acids comprise 5,11,14-C20:3 and 11,14-C20:2.

16. (Currently Amended) The A wood cooking aid of according to claim 1 wherein
~~characterized in that~~ said fatty acids and said rosin acids are derived from distilled tall oil and/or tall oil rosin and/or tall oil fatty acids.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for making the ~~preparing a~~ wood cooking aid of
~~according to claim 1 characterized in that fatty acids and rosin acids are provided in a mixture in a~~
~~ratio which is effective in removing the extractives in pulp production, and if desired comprising~~
the steps of:

i) blending a fatty acid component with a rosin acid component to produce a fatty acid rosin
acid mixture;

ii) salts of said acids are prepared by reacting said fatty acid rosin acid mixture containing
~~the desired fatty acid and rosin acid distribution with water and sodium hydroxide to form salts of~~
said acids.

18. (Currently Amended) The A method of ~~for preparing a wood cooking aid according to~~
claim 17 wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said reacting is performed in a pressure reactor at a
temperature about 100°C.

19. (Currently Amended) The A method of for preparing a wood cooking aid according to claim 17 wherein characterized in that said reacting is performed in a continuous reactor.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for Use of the wood cooking aid according to claim 1 characterized in that a wood cooking aid comprising salts of fatty acids and rosin acids in a ratio which is effective in removing the extractives in pulp production is used in cooking of hardwood comprising the steps of:

i) contacting hardwood particles with a cooking liquor comprising a cooking aid, and

ii) heating said particles and liquor to a temperature between 140°C and 180°C

wherein said cooking aid comprises about 70 to about 2% fatty acids, and about 20 to about 98% rosin acids and less than 15% unsaponifiable material preferably birch.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said hardwood is birch.